

**REVISED MINUTES OF THE
POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, April 18, 2007 – 9:00 a.m. – W130 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Dennis E. Stowell, Senate Chair
Rep. Fred R Hunsaker, House Chair
Sen. Fred J. Fife
Sen. Sheldon Killpack
Rep. Michael G. Waddoups
Rep. Sheryl L. Allen
Rep. Tim M. Cosgrove
Rep. Bradley M. Daw
Rep. Gage Froerer
Rep. Kerry W. Gibson
Rep. Christopher N. Herrod
Rep. Christine A. Johnson
Rep. Brad King
Rep. Carl Wimmer
Rep. Scott L Wyatt

Members Absent:

Rep. D. Gregg Buxton
Rep. Jennifer M Seelig

Staff Present:

Mr. Joseph T. Wade, Policy Analyst
Mr. Robert H. Rees, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Wendy L. Bangerter, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Dennis Stowell called the meeting to order at 9:18 a.m. Committee members introduced themselves.

MOTION: Sen. Fife moved to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2006 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Overview of Political Subdivisions

Mr. Rees presented an overview of political subdivisions, what comprises them, how they are governed, and how they function.

3. Special District Recodification - What Else Needs to be Done

Mr. Rees reviewed the history of special districts in the Utah Code and what efforts have been made in the past years, including the rewrite/recodification of Title 17A as implemented in 2007 General Session, H.B. 65, "Special and Local Districts Amendments."

Rep. Brad Dee, sponsor of H.B. 65, also reviewed the most recent efforts and those issues that still need to be addressed. He recommended the continuation of the Special Districts Subcommittee of the Political Subdivisions Interim Committee to accomplish the remaining recodification tasks.

Committee discussion followed.

Mr. Mark Anderson, Utah Association of Special Districts, agreed there is a significant amount of work to be done: 1) tweak H.B. 65; 2) recodify special service districts; and 3) review county and municipal

dependent districts. He also recommended continuation of the subcommittee, along with a work group to help that subcommittee.

MOTION: Rep. Froerer moved to send a letter to the Legislative Management Committee requesting approval to continue the Special Districts Subcommittee, to hold not more than five meetings and be comprised of legislators appointed by the chairs of the Political Subdivisions Committee, who will also determine the number of members needed.

4. Local District Board of Trustee Member Qualifications

Mr. LeGrand Bitter, Utah Association of Special Districts, distributed a portion of Title 20A, Chapter, 2, Section 101 and explained the background of board member qualifications of a local district board and those districts that need to be modified.

Mr. Anderson also commented on the needed modifications.

5. Combining Ballots for Local Districts and Municipalities

Rep. Douglas Aagard discussed the issue of placing local districts (formerly called special districts) elections and municipality elections on the same ballot. He noted that local districts that overlap municipalities could pose a problem that would need to be addressed.

Rep. Wyatt recommended holding the municipal elections on the same year as general elections.

Mr. Anderson commented that in past years, special districts held their own elections in December. At one point the law was changed to allow their dates to coincide with the general election, but county clerk pressure on the Legislature caused them to revert to alternating with municipal elections. The problem is that local districts do not coincide with county boundaries. He recommended that this subject be addressed by the subcommittee or a working group, separate from the recodification.

Mr. Terel Grimley, Pineview Water Systems, noted that because irrigations districts vote by number of water shares, they are an exception.

Rep. Wyatt was asked to sponsor a work group on this subject, meet with Rep. Aagard and the interested parties, and report back to the Political Subdivisions Interim Committee.

6. Other Items / Adjourn

Rep. Hunsaker reviewed items recommended by management for study by the Committee. The Committee also discussed other potential study items.

Rep. Wyatt requested studying local referendums.

MOTION: Rep. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Killpack, Sen. Waddoups, Rep. Allen, Rep. Cosgrove, Rep. Herrod, and Rep. King were absent for the vote.

Chair Stowell adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.